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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.3, entitled "High-level political conference for the purpose of signing the United Nations convention against corruption"

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly

I. Introduction

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.3, the General Assembly would decide to convene in Mexico the high-level political conference for the purpose of signing the United Nations convention against corruption by the end of 2003, and request the Secretary-General to schedule the conference by the end of 2003.

II. Relationship of the proposed request to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003

2. The activities to be carried out would relate to programme 12, Crime prevention and criminal justice, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and section 14, Crime prevention and criminal justice, section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, and section 27F, Administration, Vienna, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

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III. Modification of the approved programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

3. In order to reflect the provisions of the draft resolution, the narrative of programme element 14.19 (a), Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies, of section 14 of the approved programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 would be modified by the addition of the following:

High-level political conference for the purpose of signing the United Nations convention against corruption:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings (12);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Annotated agenda for the Conference; information for participations; report of the Conference.

IV. Estimates of resource requirements

4. The substantive servicing of the conference will be carried out with the resources approved by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, under section 14 of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

5. The additional conference-servicing costs for the conference are estimated at $137,900 under Section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, and $23,300 under section 27F, Administration, Vienna, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

V. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2002-2003

6. Upon further review of the implications of the draft resolution, it was concluded that the additional requirements could be met by using the resources already approved by the General Assembly for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It is recalled that resources have been included under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 for the provision of conference services to the Conference of the Parties. The Convention will enter into force 90 days after the deposit of the fortieth instrument of ratification, and the Conference of the Parties should be convened within one year from the entry into force of the Convention. There are currently only 22 instruments of ratification deposited. While it is possible that the Convention may enter into force in the course of 2003, it is not foreseen that the Conference of the Parties would be convened in the same year. Thus, the conference-servicing resources budgeted for this purpose under Section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, and Section 27F, Administration, Vienna, could be redeployed for the proposed high-level political conference. As a result, no additional appropriation would be required to implement the provisions of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.3.

7. As regards operative paragraph 3 of the resolution, it is to be noted that the General Assembly, by resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, decided that United Nations bodies may hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory has

agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional cost directly or indirectly involved. Therefore, the additional requirements of $161,200 for the biennium 2002-2003 are based on the estimated costs of convening the conference at Vienna.